



November 24, 2010

Dear Sen. Birkholz, Sen. Van Woerkom, Rep. Mayes and Rep. Scripps:

We commend you for introducing offshore wind legislation as SB1591 and HB6564 and we at the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC) are pleased to support your adoption of this legislation in the remaining days of the 2010 legislative session.

Offshore wind is a rapidly growing industry globally. Federal policy supports and projects substantial wind energy deployment in the United States. Due to economies of scale, there will likely be only one or two regions in North America and a handful worldwide where most of this manufacturing will be done. Offshore wind equipment is the kind of highly engineered product manufactured using advanced methods and materials that complement Michigan's great strengths. We want Michigan to be the home of the North American offshore wind supply chain so that we and other companies like ours can prosper here and provide Michigan jobs for its citizens.

Offshore wind projects will require substantial port-based deployment and maintenance work. Again due to economies of scale, there will likely be only one or two ports in the Great Lakes from which most of this work will be done. We want Michigan to be the home of the Great Lakes offshore wind industry so that communities like ours can prosper and provide Michigan jobs.

This legislation creates a permitting process such that the waters of the State of Michigan are protected and the development of offshore wind resources is enabled. Adopting this legislation now will give Michigan the opportunity to move ahead of other States in building both offshore wind supply chain businesses and Great Lakes offshore wind deployment and maintenance businesses.

A broad set of stakeholders, including many private citizens, have weighed in on this legislation through the Great Lakes Offshore Wind Council (GLOW) meetings and public hearings, as well as the legislative workgroup. You have held over ten workgroup meetings preparing offshore wind legislation. Some meetings included broad stakeholders (Chamber, MMA, MI Municipal League, MI Township Association, MI Association of Counties, environmental groups, etc.). The legislative drafts are based on recommendations from a diverse 29-member GLOW council. The GLOW council held five public hearings this past year, of which three were in coastal communities, with hundreds of Michigan citizens participating.

We believe the legislation has broad support and is good for Michigan. We encourage you and your colleagues in the Michigan legislature to adopt this legislation during the remaining days of your 2010 session.

Sincerely,

T. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart, Director
Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center